

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**North America – Physical Features (Guided Reading)**from the film *North America – Physical Features* by Mexus Education, Ltd.

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of North America can be divided into three \_\_\_\_\_ dimensions:
- The Western \_\_\_\_\_ or mountain \_\_\_\_\_
  - the Central \_\_\_\_\_
  - the Eastern \_\_\_\_\_
- The Western Cordilleras are young \_\_\_\_\_ like the \_\_\_\_\_ mountain ranges. These ranges are about 6,500 km or 4,039 miles long and stretch from \_\_\_\_\_ in the north to \_\_\_\_\_ in the south along the \_\_\_\_\_ coast. These mountains further extend into \_\_\_\_\_ as the Andes. Its width is a \_\_\_\_\_ of 1,500 km or 932 miles in the middle and \_\_\_\_\_ to the north and south.
- The Western \_\_\_\_\_ consist of several \_\_\_\_\_ ranges running north to south. The \_\_\_\_\_ range is the \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains, which form the \_\_\_\_\_ range. Mt. \_\_\_\_\_, at a towering 6,200 meters or 20,341 feet is the highest peak in North America and lies in the \_\_\_\_\_ Range.
- The Alaska Range is found in the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ Range in the middle, and the \_\_\_\_\_

Range along the coast. The \_\_\_\_\_ Range, in particular, rises \_\_\_\_\_ from the coast.

- The \_\_\_\_\_ lies inland, \_\_\_\_\_ to the Coastal range. Sierra \_\_\_\_\_ lies to the south, stretching through the length of \_\_\_\_\_ America.
- Between the \_\_\_\_\_ Range in the east and the \_\_\_\_\_ Coast lie a series of \_\_\_\_\_ **plateaus**. They are the \_\_\_\_\_ Plateau, the \_\_\_\_\_ Plateau, and the \_\_\_\_\_ Plateau. Many of these plateaus have been cut up by rivers. Some rivers like the \_\_\_\_\_ have cut very deep \_\_\_\_\_ known as the \_\_\_\_\_, which is truly majestic.
- The Western Cordilleras have many \_\_\_\_\_ exceeding 4,000 m or \_\_\_\_\_ feet above sea level. A number of \_\_\_\_\_ and **extinct** \_\_\_\_\_ are found here. This is also a region known for \_\_\_\_\_. Most of the rivers of North America have their \_\_\_\_\_ in the Western Cordilleras.
- The Central \_\_\_\_\_ lie between the Western \_\_\_\_\_ and the Eastern \_\_\_\_\_. They stretch from the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean in the North to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the South. These **plains** are also known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Northern part near the \_\_\_\_\_ Bay is known as the \_\_\_\_\_. It is made up of some of the \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ rocks in the world, like the Plateau of  
\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ Plateau of  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- The Canadian Shield was covered with thick \_\_\_\_\_ of ice during the \_\_\_\_\_ Age about 18,000 years ago. \_\_\_\_\_ scooped out great \_\_\_\_\_ in the land as they slowly moved along. This resulted in the formation of thousands of \_\_\_\_\_. When the \_\_\_\_\_ melted, water filled these depressions, forming \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Lakes of North America were formed this way. They are made of five fresh water lakes: Lake \_\_\_\_\_, Lake \_\_\_\_\_, Lake \_\_\_\_\_, Lake \_\_\_\_\_, and Lake \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many short rivers drain the Canadian \_\_\_\_\_ and enter \_\_\_\_\_ Bay. The \_\_\_\_\_, an important north-flowing river, empties into the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean. The \_\_\_\_\_ flows through Canada and Alaska and empties into the \_\_\_\_\_.
- South of the Great Lakes lies the vast \_\_\_\_\_ drained by the \_\_\_\_\_ River and its \_\_\_\_\_. In the northern part, these lowlands are called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ River, along with its chief \_\_\_\_\_ the Missouri, is the third \_\_\_\_\_ river in the world, with a length of

3,778 km or 2,348 miles. It forms a large \_\_\_\_\_ before flowing into the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

- The Mississippi River is richly celebrated in American \_\_\_\_\_. Mark Twain's \_\_\_\_\_ was set along the \_\_\_\_\_ River.
- In the west, the plains are quite \_\_\_\_\_, where they are called the "High Plains". These plains have been cut by \_\_\_\_\_ rivers and many deep \_\_\_\_\_ can be found here.
- The Eastern \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_ are 2,575 km or 1,600 miles long chain of \_\_\_\_\_ stretching from the valley of the \_\_\_\_\_ River down through most of the \_\_\_\_\_ United States. They are not very high, being \_\_\_\_\_ 2000 meters or 6,562 feet in most places. These are very old \_\_\_\_\_ mountains and are made up of \_\_\_\_\_ rocks.
- To the east, the \_\_\_\_\_ Highlands are flanked by the \_\_\_\_\_ which lies between \_\_\_\_\_ ranges on one side and \_\_\_\_\_ or sea on the other. It \_\_\_\_\_ steeply down to the \_\_\_\_\_.